QUALIFICATION SYSTEM – XXV OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES – MILANO CORTINA 2026

INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON UNION (IBU)

BIATHLON

A. EVENTS (11)

Men's events (5)	Women's events (5)	Mixed events (1)
Men's 10km Sprint Men's 20km Individual Men's 12.5km Pursuit Men's 15km Mass Start Men's 4x7.5km Relay	Women's 7.5km Sprint Women's 15km Individual Women's 10km Pursuit Women's 12.5km Mass Start Women's 4x6km Relay	2x6km Men + 2x6km Women Mixed Relay

B. QUOTA PLACES

1. **Total quota places for discipline :**

	Quota places	Host country quota places	Total
Men	103	2	105
Women	103	2	105
Total	206	4	**210**

2. **Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee (NOC) (per sport/discipline and/or per event):**

NOC Rank	Quota per NOC	Total Quota	Start Quota per NOC	Total Start
1 to 3	6	18	4*	12
4 to 10	5	35	4*	28
11 to 20	4	40	4	40
IBU QP List	max. 2	12**	max. 2	12
		105		92

*a higher number of starters (max. 5/6) in the mass start competition is possible according to IBU ECR Art. 13.4.1 - https://www.biathlonworld.com/inside-ibu/downloads

** May include Host Country Quota if necessary

Maximum of one (1) Relay team per gender per NOC composed of four (4) male or four (4) female athletes already qualified.

Maximum of one (1) Mixed Relay team per NOC composed of two (2) male and two (2) female athletes already qualified.

3. **Type of allocation of quota places:**

Quota places are allocated to the NOC(s).

C. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Compliance with the Olympic Charter and other relevant rules
All athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions).

Only those athletes who respect and comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, including the conditions of participation established by the IOC, plus the rules of IBU, may participate in the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

Additional IF eligibility criteria

IBU Event & Competition Rules:

1.5.3.1 Olympic Winter Games (OWG)

As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in OWG events, a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points or less at the end of the last trimester before the OWG, or fulfil one of the following criteria during the current or previous season:

a. Compete in two competitions, earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at the IBU Cup, Open European Championships (OECH), World Championships (WCH) and/or World Cup (WC) in the Sprint or Individual, or

b. Obtain two finishes in the top half at the Junior World Championships (JWCH) (not Youth), or

c. One result from each of the criteria a. and b. above.

Each member of Relay teams must also have met the above individual qualification requirements.

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

QUOTA PLACES

Number of Quota Places	Qualification Event
D.1: **Men: 18** **Women: 18**	**D.1. NOCs ranked 1 to 3 in 2024/25 World Cup Nation Cup (WC NC) Score** Athletes ranked 1 to 3 in the respective gender's 2024/25 final WC NC Score, will obtain six (6) quota places for their respective NOC.
D.2: **Men: 35** **Women: 35**	**D.2. NOCs ranked 4 to 10 in 2024/25 World Cup Nation Cup (WC NC) Score** Athletes ranked 4 to 10 in the respective gender's 2024/25 final WC NC Score, will obtain five (5) quota places for their respective NOC.
D.3: **Men: 40** **Women: 40**	**D.3. NOCs ranked 11 to 20 in 2024/25 World Cup Nation Cup (WC NC) Score** Athletes ranked 11 to 20 in the respective gender's 2024/25 final WC NC Score, will obtain four (4) quota places for their respective NOC.
D.4: **Men: 12** **Women: 12**	**D.4. IBU Qualifying Points List** (ref: IBU Event & Competition Rules Art. 1.5.3.4 & 1.5.3.5 https://www.biathlonworld.com/inside-ibu/downloads) Only NOCs which have not been allocated quota places through D.1, D.2 or D.3 will be eligible to be allocated up to a maximum of (2) quota places. The NOCs of the highest ranked athletes from the respective gender's IBU qualifying points list as of 18 January 2026 (after WC 5 in Ruhpolding/GER) will earn quota places for their respective NOCs up to a maximum of two (2) quota places per NOC.

Affiliation of two (2) or more IBU National Federations to the same NOC

In the case where two (2) or more IBU National Federations (NFs) are affiliated to the same NOC the following rules for quota allocation will apply:

For the OWG NOC Quota List ranking purposes only the highest ranked NF will be taken into consideration for the allocation of quotas to the affiliated NOC for D.1, D.2 or D.3.

For IBU Qualifying Points List ranking purposes, the highest ranked athletes from the affiliated NFs of the NOC will be taken into consideration for the allocation of quotas to the corresponding NOC for D.4.

If the NOC which is affiliated to two (2) or more NFs earn quotas in D.1, D.2, D.3 or D.4, the selection of the athletes occupying the quotas are at the discretion of the NOC and the selected athletes will participate at the Olympic Winter Games as part of that NOC's delegation.

HOST COUNTRY PLACES

Individual Competitions

If the Host Country CONI has not been allocated any quota places through D.1, D.2, D.3 or D.4 or has only been allocated one (1) quota place through D.4 and it has eligible athletes according to Section C, it will receive up to a maximum of two (2) quota places per gender issued through D.4 to start in individual competitions. In such cases, up to a maximum of two (2) quota places will be deducted from the overall quota of 12 allocated in D.4.

Mixed Relay Competition

The Host Country is eligible to start in the Mixed Relay Competition provided they have a sufficient number of athletes meeting the Athlete Eligibility requirements listed in C above.

E. CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR QUOTA PLACES

CONFIRMATION OF QUOTA PLACES

Following each qualification event, IBU will publish the results on its website http://biathlonresults.com.

For all NOCs earning quotas through the D.1, D.2, or D.3, IBU will inform the respective NOCs of their allocated quota places by 1 April 2025. The NOCs will then have until 21 January 2026 to confirm if they wish to use these quota places, as detailed in paragraph G. Qualification Timeline.

For all NOCs earning quotas through D.4, IBU will inform the respective NOCs of their allocated quota place(s) on 19 January 2026. The NOCs will then have until 21 January 2026 to confirm if they wish to use these quota places, as detailed in paragraph G. Qualification Timeline.

F. REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA PLACES

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA PLACES

IBU will inform the respective NOCs of their reallocated quota place(s) on 22 January 2026.

If any of the reallocated quota place(s) is/are not confirmed by the NOC by the confirmation of quota place deadline on 24 January 2026 or is/are declined by the NOC, the quota place(s) will be reallocated to the NOC of the next highest ranked athlete according to D.4. The quota place may be reallocated to NOCs that have earned only one (1) quota in that gender or to a NOC that does not yet have a quota. All further reallocations offered on or after 24 January 2026 as described above must be confirmed within 48 hours.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED HOST COUNTRY PLACES

Unused Host Country Place(s) will be reallocated according to D.4.

G. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Date	Milestone
Qualification Period Season 2024/25	
25 Nov – 01 Dec 2024	IBU Cup Biathlon, Idre Fjall (SWE)
30 Nov – 08 Dec 2024	WC Biathlon, Kontiolahti (FIN)
02 Dec – 08 Dec 2024	IBU Cup Biathlon, Sjusjoen (NOR)
09 Dec – 15 Dec 2024	WC Biathlon, Hochfilzen (AUT)
16 Dec – 21 Dec 2024	IBU Cup Biathlon, Obertilliach (AUT)
16 Dec – 22 Dec 2024	WC Biathlon, Annecy-Le Grand Bornand (FRA)
06 Jan – 12 Jan 2025	WC Biathlon, Oberhof (GER)
06 Jan – 12 Jan 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Arber (GER)
13 Jan – 19 Jan 2025	WC Biathlon, Ruhpolding (GER)
13 Jan – 19 Jan 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Brezno-Osrblie (SVK)
20 Jan – 26 Jan 2025	WC Biathlon, Antholz-Anterselva (ITA)
27 Jan – 02 Feb 2025	OECH Biathlon 2025, Martell-Val Martello (ITA)
03 Feb – 09 Feb 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Ridnaun-Val Ridanna (ITA)
10 Feb – 23 Feb 2025	WCH Biathlon 2025, Lenzerheide (SUI)
24 Feb – 02 Mar 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Otepää (EST)
03 Mar – 09 Mar 2025	WC Biathlon, Nove Mesto na Morave (CZE)
03 Mar – 09 Mar 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Otepää (EST)
10 Mar – 16 Mar 2025	WC Biathlon, Pokljuka (SLO)
17 Mar – 23 Mar 2025	WC Biathlon, Oslo – Holmenkollen (NOR)
Unknown date	YJWCH Biathlon 2025, Östersund (SWE)
Qualification Period Season 2025/26	
29 Nov – 07 Dec 2025	WC Biathlon, Östersund (SWE)
01 Dec – 07 Dec 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Obertilliach (AUT)
08 Dec – 14 Dec 2025	WC Biathlon, Hochfilzen (AUT)
08 Dec – 14 Dec 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Ridnaun-Val Ridanna (ITA)
15 Dec – 21 Dec 2025	WC Biathlon, Annecy-Le Grand Bornand (FRA)
15 Dec – 21 Dec 2025	IBU Cup Biathlon, Lenzerheide (SUI)
05 Jan – 11 Jan 2026	WC Biathlon, Oberhof (GER)
05 Jan – 11 Jan 2026	IBU Cup Biathlon, Arber (GER)

12 Jan – 18 Jan 2026	WC Biathlon, Ruhpolding (GER)
12 Jan – 18 Jan 2026	IBU Cup Biathlon, Brezno-Osrblie (SVK)
Inform and Confirm	
01 April 2025	The IBU informs in writing to the NOCs the quota places obtained through D1, D2 and D3.
18 January 2026	Publication of IBU Qualifying Points List
19 January 2026	The IBU informs in writing to the NOCs the quota places obtained through D4.
21 January 2026	The NOCs to confirm to the IBU the use of the allocated quota places.
Reallocation	
22 January 2026	IBU to reallocate all unused quota places.
24 January 2026	The NOCs to confirm to the IBU the use of the reallocated quota places.
26 January 2026	**Milano Cortina 2026 Sport Entries deadline**
6 – 22 February 2026	**Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026**